

SPORTS

# Celtics’ luck runs out as Bulls pull away to win 19-14

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER  
STAFF WRITER

The Bulls defeated the Celtics 19-14 in the 11- to 12-year-old Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball league at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Feb. 5.

The Bulls all-around play served them well when the Celtics threatened their lead late in the game. The team grew a bit frustrated with some of the officiating in the second half, which led to a break down of defense, according to the Bulls coach. “They get mad about the calls, and I tell them to not worry about the referees,” said Perry McClain, coach for the Bulls. “That’s the coach’s job. They need to stay focused and play the game they know how to play.”

That focus has led the Bulls to an undefeated season so far, which McClain was quick to stress needs to be maintained in future games.

“I told them that these teams get better as they play, so don’t give them any slack,” said McClain. “Being that we are the winning team, everybody is out to get us.”

With the rest of the team gunning for the Bulls, McClain sees many areas where his team needs improvement.

“[We have got to control] the fouling and reaching in,” he said. “We are aggressive, and sometimes we can be a little bit too aggressive. That haunted us here as we almost had two of our best players foul out.”

The Celtics were more than happy to try to take advantage of the Bulls’ fouling. Led by the scoring of Jessika Byrd, the ball handling of Luke Campbell

and a desire to beat the unbeaten, the Celtics reached for something no team has yet accomplished -- defeating the Bulls.

“They have been working hard on some different things implemented since the beginning of the season,” said James C. Hawkins, coach for the Celtics. “We are going to work more on

shooting. Once they get that shot down, we are going to be tearing them up.”

With players like Byrd and Campbell, Hawkins feels his team has a good chance in any game.

“Luke Campbell is the best ball handler on our team,” said Hawkins. “He goes to basketball camp, and he shows that he has some good ball-handling skills.”

Fueled by skilled ball handling, some Celtics players began taking chances by trying some shots they had not quite perfected to get the win.

“[Ryan Elzie] tried to make something happen, but it didn’t,” said Hawkins. “If it did it would have been good. They have got to take some good shots before they can take the hooks and layups.”

Hawkins commended his team for thinking outside of the box, but he also warned that players do not need to go overboard.

“Sometimes, they get a little bit nervous when they are on the floor,” he said. “They have got to learn to calm down a little bit more and take good shots. They get out there, throw the ball up and try to make things happen, but they need to try to make it happen slower than they are right now.”

The Bulls will play the Sixers at 2 p.m. at Laurel Bay Feb. 21, while the Celtics will play the Lakers at 1 p.m.



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester  
Malcolm Hart, a guard for the Bulls, runs down court during a game at the Depot Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina gym Feb. 5. Hart’s six points helped the Bulls win a close game 19-14.

## To the hoop ...



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald  
Howard Moore, forward for RTR, goes up for a layup over a MALS-31 Supply defender at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Monday. RTR won the game 52-42, improving their record to 12-3. The team is currently ranked second in the standings and has only two regular season games remaining before playoffs.